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Macalester College

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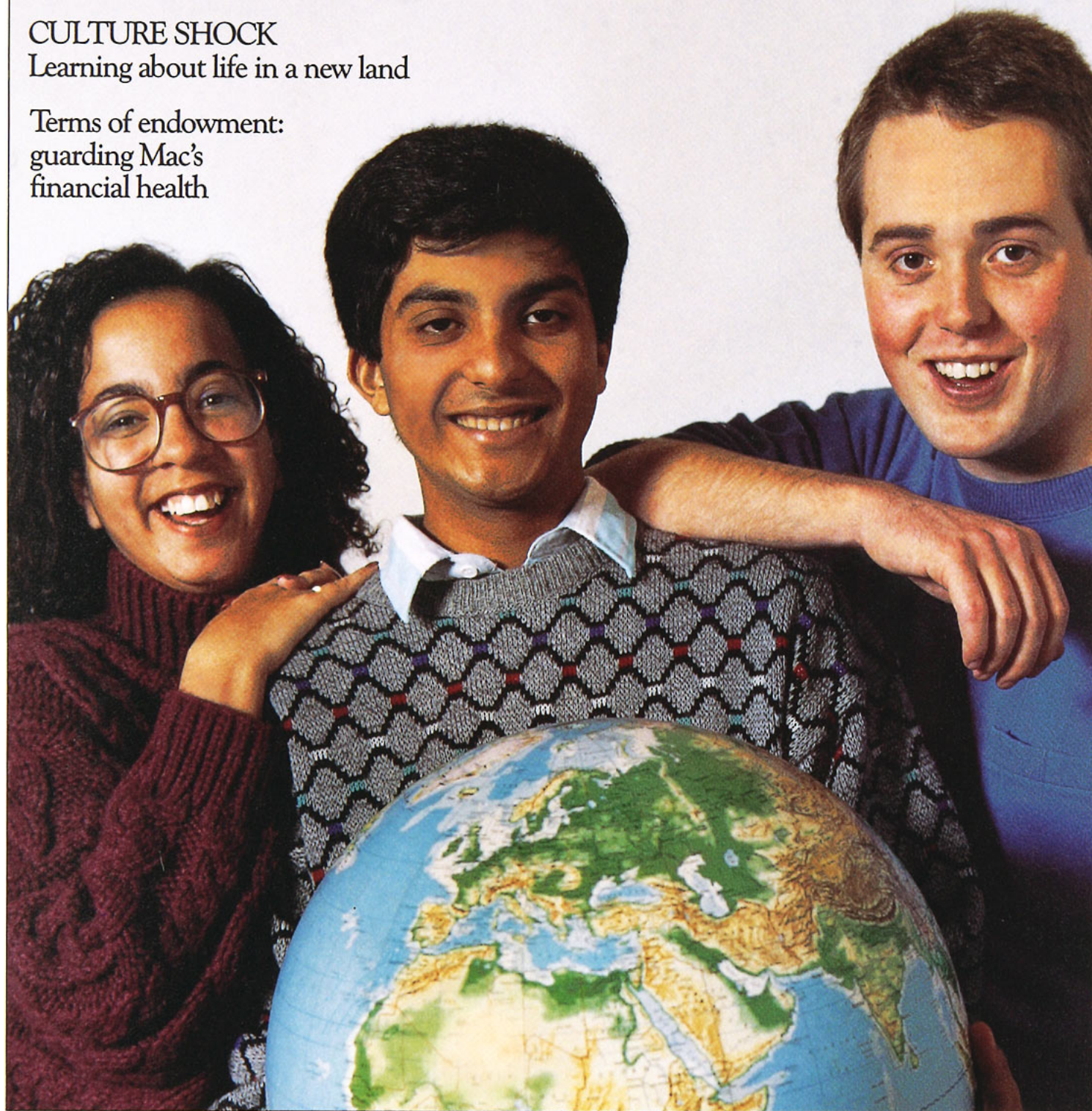
MACALESTER TODAY

November 1989

CULTURE SHOCK

Learning about life in a new land

Terms of endowment:
guarding Mac's
financial health



LETTERS

We welcome readers' opinions of recent articles. Please send letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, Public Relations and Publications Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

High academic standards rightly beat athletic ones

As a 1955 graduate of Macalester and as a member of the M Club (a mediocre athlete at best), I was delighted and proud to read [basketball and softball coach] John Hershey's article [August] on the maintenance of high academic standards for our student athletes. Let's not *ever* depart from that philosophy.

Dean E. Smith '55
Minneapolis

We make retired prof wish *he* taught at Mac

I am just finishing the May issue of *Macalester Today*. And enjoying it.

This is an unusually fine alumni journal—and I have had, in my long career in the higher-education world, an opportunity to read many. It is attractive in form and style, and it gives the reader a real, positive feel for what Macalester is all about in this highly competitive world of higher education. Since I have just retired after 53 years of teaching in colleges and universities, it makes me wish I could go back and teach at Mac for a few years. You make it sound like an exciting and superior college—which it is.

Please don't let the few negative comments you get change what you are doing in any major way.

David M. Fulcomer '32, Ph.D.
San Diego, Calif.

A scene from circa 1961: then-President Harvey Rice hosts a reception for a group of upper-class women. Can anyone tell Macalester Today what the occasion was?



March in Washington changed students' lives

On behalf of many current students, I wish to express appreciation for the picture of Macalester students at the April 9 pro-choice march in Washington, D.C. [May]. Too often it seems that alumni magazines present a glossy, uncontroversial, "safe" image of the schools they represent—an image usually unrecognizable to the students who actually attend those schools. For the nearly 300 Mac students who marched [in Washington] for abortion rights, and for the countless others who could not attend but were pulled into action by the experience of

those students, the photograph serves as a validation of their actions by a respected college publication.

Since the march, Mac students have been among the most active (if not *the* most active) participants in the pro-choice movement in the Twin Cities and Minnesota—participating in phone banks, escorting women into besieged clinics, demonstrating, and serving as marshals at rallies. The April 9 march clearly changed my life and many other students' lives, and invigorated Macalester's tradition of community activism. Thank you for recognizing that.

Joseph Heiman '91
Menlo Park, Calif.

LETTERS continued on page 33

ABOUT THIS ISSUE



Having suffered—and grown—through culture shock experiences, Cara Woodson '89, Rajeev Vibhakar '92, and Patrick Hollister '90 plan further travels as they gather for a photograph by Jim Hansen. See page 14.

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2 At Macalester

A new provost, a Chinese memorial service, and an 'up-and-coming' classification from U.S. News.

6 Giving Back: Inspired by Teaching

Bob Olander '39 explains how the professors of 50 years ago inspired his present-day tribute of \$1 million—part of a record-setting class gift.
by Terry Andrews

8 Terms of Endowment

What would you do with \$200 million? That's about what Macalester's investment portfolio is worth right now, and its earnings provide \$1 for every \$6 the college spends.
by Scott Edelstein



14 Becoming an Alien

Three students describe their plunges into life in a foreign land.
by Rebecca Ganzel

18 The 'Shock' of a New Life

The International Center's myriad ways to ease students' transition into an unfamiliar culture.



21 Alumni News

Photos galore from Alumni Reunion '89.

24 Class Notes

Read about geologist Jeffrey Hedenquist's continental drift—and other news from classmates and friends.
by Kevin Brooks

25 Alumni Profiles

An English teacher in Beijing, a turtle-midwife in Costa Rica, and a 'crabby' playwright in St. Louis.

26 Alumni & Faculty Books

A look at the issue of AIDS testing and privacy.
by Mary Lou Burket

29 Memorials

Losses to the Macalester family: national farm activist Tom Saunders '69, and legendary speech professor Mary Gwen Owen '23.

U.S. News: Mac is 'up-and-coming' college

Macalester was identified as one of the nation's "top up-and-coming schools" in the annual "best colleges" issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, which reached newsstands Oct. 9.

In a survey taken earlier this year, the magazine asked a group of presidents, deans of admissions, and academic deans from institutions identified as national liberal-arts colleges to name the top up-and-coming colleges among their peers. Macalester was one of six colleges selected nationwide for "recent educational innovations and improvements."

Other colleges on the list: Centre College (Ky.); Colorado College; Drew University (N.J.); Earlham College (Ind.); and Rhodes College (Tenn.).

"We are pleased at this highly visible recognition of the efforts and talents of our faculty and students, and of the resources Macalester has committed to them," President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., says. "We are proud of the strength of our academic programs and our national and international outreach."

Gavin notes several achievements that may have contributed to Macalester's showing in the survey:

- ☐ The college's science programs have been strengthened over the past five years with nearly \$2.6 million in new government and foundation support.
- ☐ The market value of Macalester's endowment during this decade (much of it held in trust for the college) has risen from \$20 million to approximately \$200 million.
- ☐ Macalester faculty have received national recognition for teaching and scholarship and have developed new curricula in several areas, including women's and gender studies, American minorities, and the cognitive sciences.
- ☐ Freshman applications have more than doubled in the past five years. The college's enrollment of 1,780 is unusually national and international in scope.
- ☐ Last year, the college opened a \$10 million library equipped with the latest in information technology.

—N.A.P./R.L.L.



Smith physics professor is named new Mac provost

Elizabeth S. Ivey, currently professor of physics at Smith College, will become Macalester's new provost in January, President Gavin announced in August. Current provost James B. Stewart, who had originally planned to return to his history professorship this past summer (March *Macalester Today*), will continue in the position through the fall semester.

Ivey's recent publications have focused on the recruitment of women and minorities in science and education. One of her studies, which found that undergraduate women who attend women's colleges (where more courses are taught by female professors) are twice as likely to earn Ph.D.s, was highlighted in an Aug. 28 *Business Week* article.

Over the past 20 years, Ivey's distinguished career at Smith has included positions as associate dean of the faculty and director of dual-degree programs in liberal arts and engineering. As associate dean, Ivey planned and implemented a variety of faculty-development workshops; served as the college's affirmative-action officer for faculty members; and chaired committees on faculty women and minorities.

Ivey also serves as adjunct professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. An authority in the field of acoustics and the physics of sound (she holds a 1976 Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts, and an M.A. in physics from Harvard University), she has held consulting assignments with a variety of academic and government organizations as well as corporations.

—R.L.L./R.L.G.

Old Main administration moves to former library

For the first time in four years, nine of Macalester's administrative offices began the academic year under one roof. But no longer is the roof that of Old Main, which housed the Macalester administration for a century. Now the president, alumni office, and seven other offices are housed in the old Weyerhaeuser library—62 Macalester St.—newly renovated over the past year.

The mid-August move completed a series of events that began in 1985, when the east wing of Old Main was found to be structurally unsound; it was torn down in spring 1986 to make way for the new library. With the new library's completion a year ago, the old library was made ready for most of Macalester's administrative offices. And, the week of Aug. 14—right on schedule—the old library became the new administration building.

The newly located offices are:

- ☐ Academic programs: #215
- ☐ Admissions: #31
- ☐ Alumni and development: #103
- ☐ Dean of students: #7
- ☐ Financial aid: #19
- ☐ Minority program: #13
- ☐ President and treasurer: #203
- ☐ Provost: #213
- ☐ Public relations and publications: #119

Alexander G. "Sandy" Hill '57, who as assistant to the president oversaw the Weyerhaeuser renovation, says the building will be nameless until the trustees decide on an official monicker later this year. For its part, Old Main is to be refurbished for classrooms and faculty offices.

—R.L.G.

College hosts service to honor Tiananmen dead

Four of China's best-known and influential dissidents gathered at Macalester on Sept. 9 for a public memorial service for those killed on June 4 in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Sponsored by Macalester, the service was organized and carried out through the efforts of dozens of Macalester students, led by Ran Wang '91. Accompanied by a dirge, students at the service carried a seven-foot replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" (the statue erected in Tiananmen Square during the spring demonstrations), and Bruce Hall '91 announced the formation of the country's first American-student support group for China's democratic movement.

The gathering coincided closely with the 100th day—the traditional time in China for remembering the dead—after

the June massacre. The organizers believe it was the only U.S. event of its kind.

Because the leaders of China's dissident movement—even those now in the United States—fear reprisals from the Chinese government, Wang had to reach them through somewhat circuitous routes. The four who came together for the first time at Macalester were:

Shen Tong, head of the negotiating team in Beijing that conducted talks with Chinese government leaders last spring. Now a student at Brandeis University, he is currently a member of the Paris-based United Front for Democratic China.

Cao Changquing, formerly deputy editor-in-chief of China's *Shen Zhen Youth News* newspaper, which was shut down because it called for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's retirement. He is now editor-in-chief of the Los Angeles *Press Freedom Herald*.

Liu Yongchuan, president of the newly founded Independent Federation of

Chinese Students and Scholars in the U.S. A participant in the Beijing movement, he is now pursuing postgraduate studies at Stanford University.

Hu Ping, president of China Democratic Alliance, the New York-based dissident group that the Chinese government has labelled "counterrevolutionary."

Together with former *New York Times* bureau chief Edward Gargan, and CBS correspondent Eric Engberg, the dissidents also participated in three panel discussions about the movement's past and future.

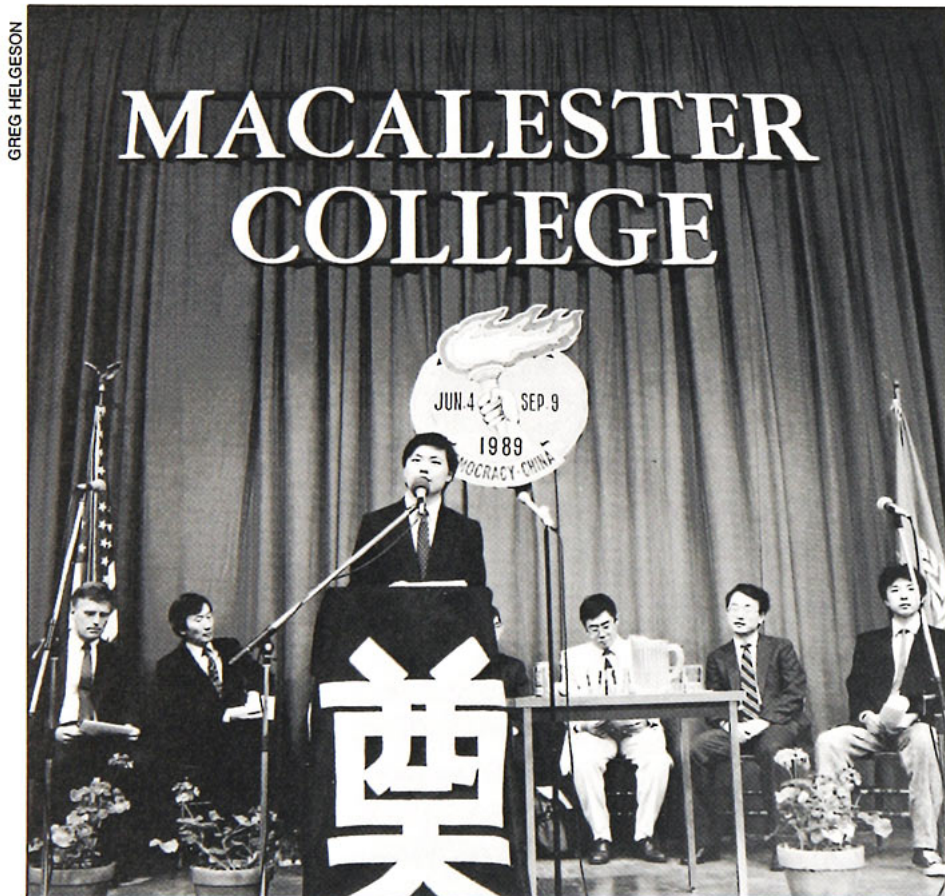
"As long as people keep their ideas and dreams alive and work on [them] constantly," Wang said, "I think the political system in China is *not* a great wall that can't be overcome." —R.L.L.

Academic dean leaves Mac for national education job

Academic dean L. Lee Kniefelkamp '67, who had served the college since her appointment last year, left the college on Aug. 4 to take a senior-level position in Washington, D.C., with the American Association for Higher Education. Among the national projects she will work on are studies of American higher education's "new professorate" and of ways to stimulate and reward excellent teaching. Kniefelkamp holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in counseling and student-personnel psychology from the University of Minnesota.

"I'll always be an active supporter of Macalester," Kniefelkamp told President Robert M. Gavin, Jr. Plans to fill the position are on hold until the January arrival of new provost Elizabeth Ivey.

—R.L.G.



Sophomore Ran Wang (at podium), whose parents live in Beijing, addresses hundreds of mourners in the Macalester gymnasium. The Sept. 9 memorial service honored those killed in China last June. Behind Wang are (from left) President Gavin, Twin Cities Chinese-American leader Wei-Ming Lu, and four prominent Chinese dissidents.

Eight at Macalester find Pew-funded science made summer productive

Three Macalester professors and five students were among the beneficiaries of the first crop of awards from the Pew Mid-States Science and Mathematics Consortium, established last January with a grant from the Philadelphia-based Pew Charitable Trusts (see this past May's *Macalester Today*).

Nationwide, 22 faculty grants and 48 undergraduate stipends were awarded at the consortium's 12 member schools.

"We've been extremely pleased with both the number of applicants and the caliber and quality of the applicant pool," says associate biology and chemistry professor Kathleen Parson '62. Parson coordinates the consortium, which is headquartered at Macalester.

Associate biology professor **Janet Serie**'s faculty-development grant from Pew has helped speed the work on diabetes research she began in graduate school. An immunologist, Serie had been grafting insulin-secreting mouse tissues into mice with diabetes. To prevent the mice from rejecting the grafts, she altered the tissue before transplanting—curing the mice of the disease.

The grant enabled Serie to work with Paul Lacy, a pathology professor at Washington University in St. Louis, on the next stage in her research: transplanting tissues from rats or hamsters into mice. Lacy is a pioneer in such cross-species transplants, called xenografts.

"The Pew has been a real godsend," Serie says. "I was able to talk with him [Lacy], share techniques, learn new techniques for xenografts, and return with eight mice who are recipients of xenografts from rats. Pew covered my travel and lodging, as well as the cost of the mice."

Associate chemistry professor **Janet Carlson** used her faculty-development grant to continue research on a molecule she's studied for five years.

Over the summer, Carlson and her research assistants experimented with cyanobacterin, a potent herbicide that

occurs naturally as a blue-green algae. Carlson's earlier research on the algae had determined that cyanobacterin kills anything that performs photosynthesis—in other words, all green plants.

To find the herbicide's most potent form, Carlson and her assistants replaced a chlorine atom in the cyanobacterin molecule with two chlorines and with such elements as hydrogen and bromine. Some of the experimental molecules turned out to be herbicides; others weren't.

"Organic chemistry is a lot like cooking," Carlson says. "It's like deciding whether to add a leek or a green onion to a stew . . . It's still the same molecule, but with a different effect."

The faculty-development grant of geology professor **Gerald Webers** went toward improving Macalester's new remote-sensing lab, a computer system that examines rocks through "image processing analysis," using software developed by the United States Geological Survey. Pew equipment stipends paid for two computer terminals; the computer displays satellite images, clearly showing mountains and glaciers and differentiating rock types by color.

Webers was aided in his analysis by two Pew undergraduate scholars, **Sean Hunt '90** (Berkeley, Calif.) and **Andrew Klein '90** (Farragut, Iowa). The three focused their efforts on a 12,000-square-mile area of the Ellsworth Mountains in central west Antarctica—a range 1,000 feet above ice level, with elevations of 17,000 feet. Webers has studied and mapped this area since the 1960s; the most recent of his several trips there was in 1979–80.

Hunt and Klein, who plan to write honors papers on their research, carefully scrutinized one part of the range whose rock types are unlike those in the rest of the area.

On past visits to the Ellsworth range, Webers found 520,000,000-year-old limestone fossils of mollusks at the point of evolving into clams and snails. Marble, which Webers says is "slightly metamorphosed limestone," shows up clearly on the satellite images, so Webers' current research may help locate more fossils.

Jeffrey Villinski '90 (Washington, D.C.), a Pew summer scholar, used his

grant to continue a project he started a year ago. Working with his advisor, associate biology professor Mark Davis, he studied gophers' potential effect on penstemon, a common prairie wildflower with bell-shaped purple blossoms.

Before starting his summer research, Villinski had investigated the flower's sensitivity to root disturbances and established that gophers eat penstemon roots in captivity. Wondering whether they also seek out the roots in the wild, he conducted an experiment this summer at Cedar Creek, a natural-history area owned by the University of Minnesota, to see if gophers would eat penstemon in a simulated natural environment.

Villinski's gophers were allowed to choose between penstemon and other plants, while a control group was offered only penstemon. In September, when we talked to him, Villinski said that the gophers thus far seemed more concerned about how to escape than what they ate, but he expected results early this month.

Villinski says he's very satisfied with the practical experience the Pew grant gave him: "I'm going to sound like something in the [Macalester course] catalog, but I am happy to become acquainted with the whole research scene."

Pew recipient **Raul Valenzuela-Wong '90** (Guanajuato, Mexico) spent the summer working with assistant physics professor Richard Brundage to study the optical qualities of actinide and lanthanide elements—which make up the bottom two rows of the periodic table of elements—in glass.

While the optical characteristics of the lanthanide series are known, the actinides, which are similar but radioactive, have not been carefully studied. Valenzuela-Wong, along with Brundage and another student, studied two elements from each series, cooling glass-encased samples of the elements to -263°C while directing a xenon lamp or a laser on them. When the samples began to emit light, its intensity was measured and recorded by a computer. They were thus able to graph the relation of wavelength to intensity—the elements' optical qualities.

Valenzuela-Wong, a physics major,

says he's thinking about graduate school. "I really like all the different aspects of science that I am exposed to with this project: chemistry, computer programming, electronics, optics," he says. "I don't know if I want to do spectroscopy forever, but I know I really like research."

A fifth Macalester student, **Julie Pullen '91** (White Bear Lake, Minn.),

was a Pew undergraduate scholar at the University of Chicago this summer. There, Pullen worked with Roland Winston, head of Chicago's physics department, on refining a solar-powered laser built there a year ago—measuring its efficiency and finding the best ways to orient it.

Working with solar power meant spending a lot of time on the laboratory

rooftop. "Heat was a problem for us at first," Pullen says, "but we discovered the best days for 'lasing' are the coolest, breeziest days in Chicago."

Off the roof, Pullen analyzed data on a computer. Monitoring equipment on the laser sent measurements directly to the computer, while a plotter attached to the computer graphed the efficiency of the laser.

"The whole research procedure tends to be integrated," Pullen says—in her case involving solar power, optics, thermodynamics, and computer science. "In physics, nothing is ever tailor-made."

—Marion Sharp

JIM HANSEN



Scraping Up Community Volunteers

First-year student Linda Lutton helps prepare a garage near the Macalester campus for fresh paint. She and many others volunteered for community service Sept. 2, part of freshman orientation activities.

Apparent seizure victim drowns in Macalester pool

The Macalester flag was lowered Aug. 2 out of respect for John Fleischhaker, a 22-year-old man who had drowned in the Macalester pool the evening before while swimming with friends.

Fleischhaker, who had a history of seizures, had come to the pool with a rehabilitation counselor on a guest pass from a Macalester summer program. Fleischhaker and the counselor were playing an underwater-swimming game at the deep end of the pool when the counselor realized that Fleischhaker had apparently lost consciousness underwater.

Two lifeguards and a monitor were on duty at the pool. While the monitor called 911, the lifeguards and counselor struggled to get Fleischhaker out of the water, a difficult process because the victim, a large man, had sunk to the deepest part of the pool—15 feet. The lifeguards and counselor then administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until paramedics came. Fleischhaker was pronounced dead on arrival at United Hospital.

Marc DeLosier, operator of the home where Fleischhaker had lived for the past several years, told the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* that it was not unusual for the victim to suffer 10 to 15 grand mal epileptic seizures—severe episodes involving loss of consciousness—in a week.

—N.A.P.

Inspired by Teaching

Macalester's professors of 50 years ago provided the impetus for one alum's million-dollar gift—part of the class of '39's record-setting \$1,136,000 contribution this year.

by Terry Andrews

When Robert H. Olander '39 reminisces about Macalester College, it is the faculty that comes first and foremost to his mind. He graduated a half-century ago, but Olander can still recite the names easily: O.T. Walter in biology, Richard Jones in chemistry, Russell Hastings in physics, Glenn Clark and F. Earl Ward in English. These were among the professors who helped to shape the young Olander during his college years, who encouraged him, challenged him, guided him, and pushed him to work harder.

"I didn't care much about grades in high school," Olander recalls. "But in college, I had to study." And it was the science faculty, particularly, he says, who "drove me to be studious." Olander's reminiscence is heartfelt, and his voice, when he speaks about Macalester, is emotional.

Olander grew up on Macalester Street and Berkeley Avenue, in the college's back yard. "The college was our community," he recalls. "The Mac woods, the skating rink—I spent a lot of time in those places." (His mother was house-mother for several years at Kirk Hall after his graduation; his cousin Henry Blom was also a member of the class of '39.)

When it came time to go to college, the Depression was still on. Olander brought his less-than-outstanding high-school record and \$15—all the money he had in the world—to Macalester's treasurer. "Tuition was about \$80 or \$90 a semester then," Olander says, "and I didn't have



Robert Olander '39 and Betty Olander outside their home in Newport Beach, Calif. Bob, having retired from his third career, says those who taught him 50 years ago inspired him to help Macalester professors today.

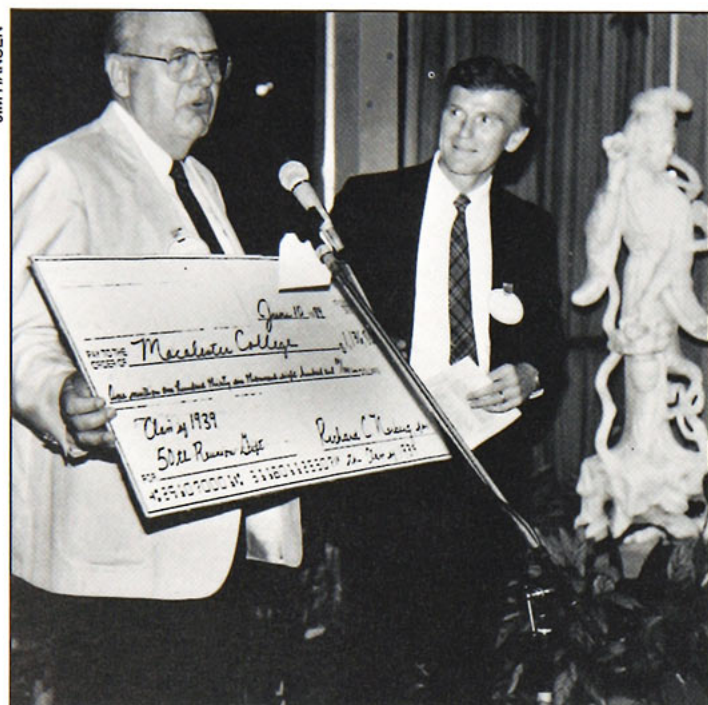
any resources. But the college was sympathetic. They put me to work polishing floors and washing windows. I worked for my tuition."

Between working and studying, he had a busy schedule, but Olander also played

on the school hockey team as a left wing and earned a letter in 1936. After that, his studies became paramount.

He graduated with a B.A., then moved to Chicago and worked in a settlement house while he attended George Williams

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At the June 10 Reunion dinner, Richard Norberg '39, left, presents President Gavin with an oversized token of the class of '39's record-breaking \$1,136,800 gift.

College. He was drafted shortly after receiving a M.A. in social work and administration.

After World War II, Olander found himself back in St. Paul. "I was floundering," he says. "I had become a different person in some respects, more of an individual." He decided he wanted to be his own boss. In 1948, Olander entered dental school at the University of Minnesota.

After getting his degree in 1952, he established a practice in Newport Beach, California. "I promised myself I would practice for 25 years," he says. "Dentistry is very hard work and can be very tedious if you do it well."

By the time he retired from dentistry in 1977 he had established Olander Enterprises, a real-estate management company that got off to a very small start. "I used to golf on Wednesdays, but I decided to make it an enterprising day instead. It proved to be a very neat way to gain knowledge about real estate in southern California." He also ventured into banking, becoming a stockholder in some small Orange County banks.

Now 72, Olander has, for the most part, retired from work because of declining health. He has turned over most of his business responsibilities to his son, Robert Jr., and his second wife, Betty.

He and Betty spend a lot of time together, some of it traveling—last year to the Far East.

Olander has often thought back to his days at Macalester and what he got from his years as a student. Above and beyond a liberal-arts education and a strong science background, he says, he also received something else equally as important. "It was an attitude—that you strive for excellence in whatever you do," he says. "And we learned a high respect for humanity. My education also prepared me for change—and that is what my life-time has been all about."

"But I think primarily about the dedication of my professors and what they contributed to my life. They had tremendous dedication." His eyes fill with tears as he remembers.

In May of this year, Bob and Betty Olander gave Macalester College a gift of \$1 million for the faculty-salary endowment fund, part of the Class of '39's record-setting class gift of \$1,136,800. "My mind tends to run in terms of investment, and I think this is probably the best investment we can make," Bob Olander says.

Betty Olander concurs. "You always said that the best investment someone can make is in themselves, in their education," she says to her husband. "With this gift, you're thinking about the education

of other people. You're investing in them."

Olander attributes his own financial success to two things—"luck and timing. I was very, very lucky in business," he says.

"Banking, when I got into it, was in its infancy in southern California. You could start a bank for \$125,000 to \$150,000. Opportunity was wide open; there was freedom to do things there. It was a growing society, and in a growing society there are lots of things to do. But first I had to learn about the capitalist system. I didn't know anything about it when I started out except that I was a product of it."

"To be a survivor, you have to guess right more than you guess wrong," he adds.

"When you make an economic investment, you want to make more money. When you invest in a college, you want to see something grow. You're contributing to lives and to society."

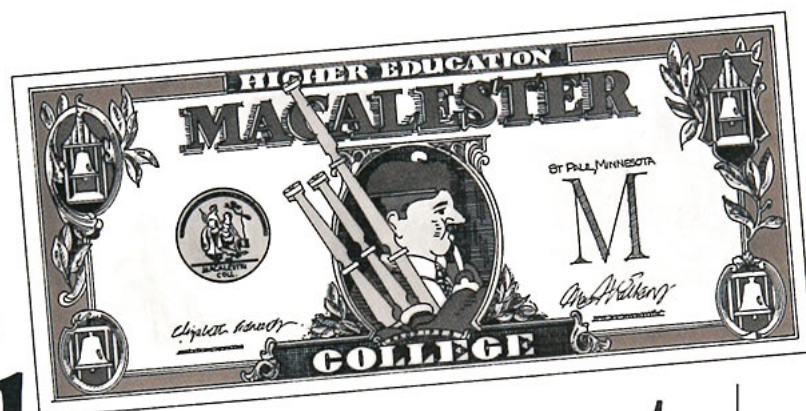
He pauses. "I don't think about this [his gift to the college] in terms of paying back so much as I do honoring the people who gave me the service. I'm responsible for doing something about it now, because now I can and am able to do it."

"For as long as I've known Bob," Betty says, "and it's been 30 years now, Macalester has always been a part of our conversation. I heard about how he worked his way through school and paid his tuition, about his respect for the professors, about the support he received here, and I almost feel a part of the school myself. He has a real love for this school."

The two celebrated their gift last May by going out to dinner in Newport Beach, where they still live. "It was a very happy day for us," Bob Olander says quietly. For him especially, it was the culmination of 50 years and three careers, a chance to look back, to remember his own experience, and to ensure that experiences like his will continue to be a part of the Macalester tradition.

Terry Andrews is a Saint Paul free-lance writer. The most recent of her frequent contributions to Macalester Today was the August issue's profile of graphic designers Pat Olson '73 and Mike Hazard '74.

Terms of Endowment



With an investment portfolio worth some \$200 million, Macalester has more resources today than many of its peers. But with the money comes an awesome responsibility: ensuring the college's financial security 50, 100, or even 500 years down the road. How does the Board of Trustees respond to such a challenge?

by Scott Edelstein

Colleges, like families, must manage their money wisely if they are to survive and prosper. For most private colleges, this includes making intelligent, relatively low-risk investments that provide a substantial return. For Macalester in particular, which has about \$200 million in investments, it also means regularly reexamining investment policies, diversifying holdings, and investing with a social conscience. Or, as college treasurer Paul Aslanian puts it, "managing our money better and getting better results."

At Macalester, as at many of the country's pre-eminent colleges and universities, a substantial portion of the college's yearly expenses are paid by earnings on its investments. Macalester's endowment supports about 16 percent of total expenditures—one out of every six dollars. This means that all Macalester students have a sixth of the cost of their education subsidized by the endowment alone.

This money comes from interest and dividends earned on Macalester's endowment—a portfolio of invested funds set aside specifically to generate steady, long term income for the college. These funds, and the earnings on them, help ensure Macalester's continued financial strength and stability. And part of the trustees' task is determining what mix of stocks, international stocks, bonds, real estate, private equity funds, and other assets should be in the endowment.

Not all colleges have endowments. The great majority of two-year schools, and many four-year colleges as well, must primarily depend on government funding rather than a privately managed portfolio. And the endowments of many private four-year colleges amount to only a few million or less. Bennington College in Vermont, for example, one of the United States' most expensive colleges (its 1989–90 tuition and fees run \$19,975, compared to Macalester's \$15,042), has a relatively small endowment: about \$3.5 million in 1988, the latest year for which figures were available.

The most selective liberal arts colleges typically have endowments of \$50–\$250 million; Macalester, with \$60 million in endowment and more than \$140 million in what Aslanian and others call "funds func-

In part due to the trustees' policy of spending only interest and dividends from the college's endowment—never any of the principal—the funds they directly manage have more than tripled in value since 1980.

tioning as endowment," is thus at the high end of the scale. Nearly a third of the total is under the direct control of the college's Board of Trustees, with the remainder held in trust on the college's behalf by outside organizations. (See sidebar, "Accounting for Macalester's Money.")

Investments, endowments, and budgets do not boil down to mere numbers, however. Macalester's continued financial health depends in large part on the policies under which its investments are made. A college that slowly eats into its endowment's principal each year will soon be in financial trouble. One that fails to consider the social and political effects of its investment policies will find itself on ethically questionable ground.

The Board of Trustees, in addition to developing guidelines for socially conscious investing (see sidebar, "The Ethics of Investing"), has adopted policies to ensure that the \$60 million it manages will continue to grow. The most important of these policies are:

- The trustees have a responsibility to manage and invest funds so that the purchasing power of the endowment income remains constant (or grows) in "real," inflation-adjusted dollars—today, tomorrow, and forever. If someone endows a faculty chair (usually requiring a gift of \$1.5 million or more), that money must be invested in such a way that the gift's income will pay the faculty member's salary 20, 50, 100, or 500 years from now.

Endowed chairs—the Arnold Lowe professorship in the religious-studies department, for example—are of particular importance to the college. As provost James Stewart explains, "endowed professorships highlight members of our faculty who exemplify and embody those

Scott Edelstein, a free-lance writer who lives in Minneapolis, is author of several books, including Putting Your Kids Through College (Consumer Reports Books, 1989), Surviving Freshman Composition (Lyle Stuart, 1988), and College: A User's Manual (Bantam, 1985).

The Ethics of Investing

Managing Macalester's investments is not simply a matter of getting the highest total return on the money; the Board of Trustees must examine its conscience as well as the bottom line. Ten years ago, Macalester became one of the first colleges in the United States to set ethical guidelines for investing in publicly held corporations; these guidelines were made more stringent seven years later.

As part of the 1979 policy, what was then known as the college's "proxy committee" was strengthened and renamed the "committee on social responsibility in investments." This committee is charged with monitoring the policies and activities of corporations in which the college invests. It must also continually evaluate the college's investment guidelines with an eye to social responsibility and, if necessary, suggest revisions.

Briefly, the 1979 guidelines encouraged (but did not require) the college to sell its stock in a publicly held company if, after repeated urgings from the Macalester trustees, as shareholders, the firm did not desist from policies causing "grave social injury." The Board of Trustees also established a president's advisory committee on South Africa and adopted policies relating to companies doing business in South Africa. These policies permitted the college to purchase a company's stock, then determine whether that firm was complying with the Sullivan Principles. (The Sullivan Principles, now known as the "Statement of Principles on South Africa," are ethical and political guidelines, established on a national level in 1977, that require equal treatment of all employees and encourage positive social change in South Africa.)

In 1986, events in South Africa and growing concern among Macalester trustees and students (the latter formed their own student committee for divestment) led the trustees to form a special ad hoc committee to review the college's guidelines for ethical investment, including its policies on investing in companies doing business in South Africa.

In November of that year, the Board of Trustees adopted new, more definitive policies on South Africa. Now the college



GREG HELGESON

In an apartheid-awareness event organized by students in fall 1985, entrances to the Student Union were designated "Whites Only" and "Blacks Only"—with black students controlling access. Violators were given slips of paper explaining the punishment for a similar offense in South Africa.

is required to sell its stock in any corporation causing "grave social injury" in South Africa, and it is prohibited from making any future investments in such a company as long as it remains in violation of Macalester policy.

This was an important change, explains trustee Faith Ohman '64, who served as chair of the trustees' committee on South Africa from its formation in 1986 until the middle of this year. (In May, trustee Bruce Williams became the committee chair.)

"We had a policy where we let our investment advisors choose anything, and then we examined and divested what didn't meet our guidelines," Ohman says. "We made a significant change, in that we no longer invested in companies doing business in South Africa unless we knew they met the Sullivan guidelines."

Students who had pushed for total divestment of South Africa-related stock were less than enthusiastic, however. "They weren't happy with our policy," Ohman says, "but they accepted it. It was kind of a negotiated settlement."

The policy remains in effect today, with one new provision—the result of a heated 1987 controversy on campus. In January of that year, the Board of Trustees invested a portion of the college's endowment in the Common Fund

Equity Fund, one of the investments offered by the Common Fund (an \$8.5 billion investment fund exclusively for colleges and universities). The Common Fund's general policy will not allow it to hold on to stocks in companies that fail to comply with the Sullivan Principles; however, its standard procedure has been to invest first, examine second, and then divest stocks as necessary, rather than to examine before investing.

According to a policy statement issued by the trustees during this period, the difference between Macalester's policies on ethical investing and those of the Common Fund amounted to merely "a mechanical screen prior to purchase." Some considered the process of examining and divesting stock more effective than not buying it at all, since it involves corresponding with, and attempting to influence the policies of, the corporations in question.

(Common Fund officials say that their policy of corresponding with corporations during the process of divestment has caused several companies to improve their activities in South Africa—or to cease operation there.)

(Macalester's earlier policies had also called for this process of communication with "offending" companies to try to

Terms of Endowment

qualities that Macalester values... [In addition] they help secure a strong financial base for the college while benefitting its academic quality."

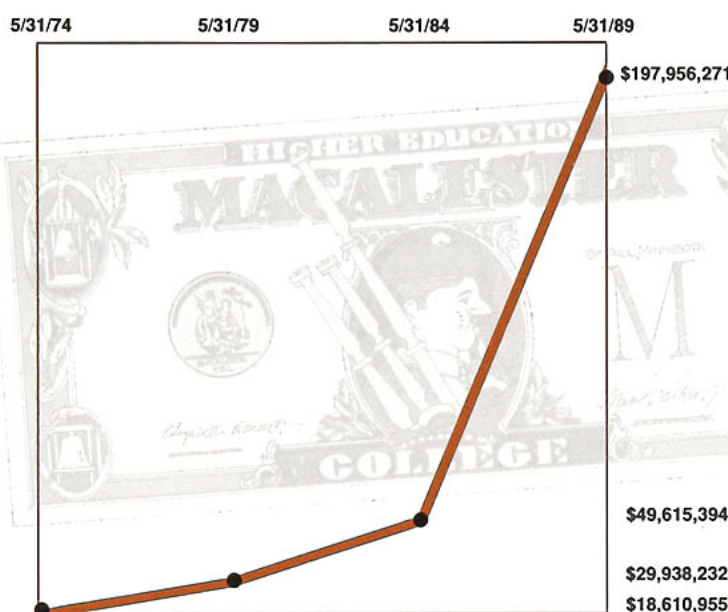
- Macalester's endowment must be invested so as to produce an average yield of 5.5 percent each year. This income does *not* include any appreciation of the principal. For example, a stock purchased at \$70 per share in 1985 might yield \$2 per year in dividends while also rising in value to, say, \$105 per share. The \$2 counts as yield, but the appreciation, \$35, does not.

(Macalester's goal is that the *total return* on its investments—that is, the yield and appreciation together—equals inflation *plus* 5.5 percent. This allows the college to spend 5.5 percent of the endowment's market value while maintaining the purchasing power of the endowment.)

- Macalester spends only interest and dividends from its endowment—never any of the principal. This policy has helped the funds managed by the Board of Trustees to grow rapidly in recent years—from about \$18 million in 1980 to the current \$60 million.
- The portion of the endowment managed by the trustees should produce a stream of yearly income equal to 9–10 percent of the college's education and general budget (\$32 million in 1989–90).

- Donors to Macalester's endowment are encouraged to make their gifts without restrictions (in other words, without special spending or investment requirements), so that their contributions can be managed in the same way as an integral part of the college's endowment funds.

These investment policies, and the college's fiscal policies in general, are intended to ensure that the Macalester student of 2089 or 2189 finds the college as academically and financially strong as it is in 1989—or stronger. But the trustees have discovered that good money management has a beneficial present-day side effect: As alumni become



The changing value of the Macalester endowment, 1974–89. (Figures for funds held in trust for the college prior to 1980 are not available.)

effect change. However, without the staff to carry out the policy, it was seldom implemented. The Common Fund has staff members who can and do vote proxies and otherwise try to influence social policies of companies in which the fund holds stocks.)

To some students, however, by investing in the Common Fund the trustees were violating their own 1986 rules and returning to the more laissez-faire policies of 1979.

"The students took it as a real breach of faith," Ohman recalls. "The result is that we have put pressure on the Com-

mon Fund to focus on their policy toward South Africa."

About \$15 million of Macalester's endowment remains invested in the Equity Fund; \$10 million more is in other Common Fund investments, primarily bonds.

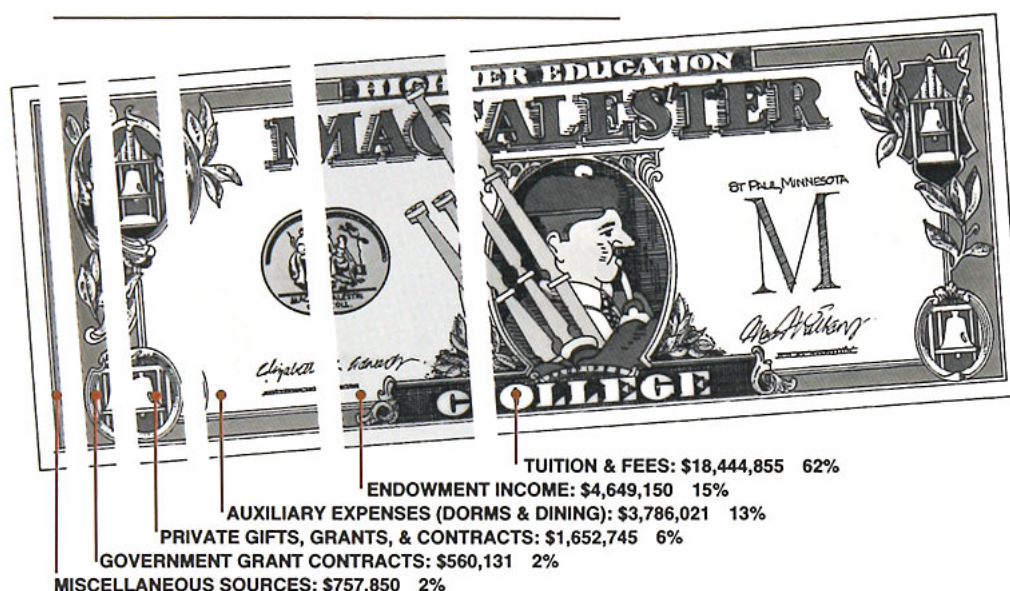
In October 1987, Macalester's trustees adopted an expanded policy on South Africa, allowing them to invest Macalester's endowment only in funds that have South African policies "substantively similar" to those of the Board of Trustees itself. It also requires the board to annually review the South African policies of

any such funds, and to divest its interest in any fund that does not have a policy similar to Macalester's.

This fall, the trustees' committee on South Africa has once again been examining the college's investment policies; it will make new recommendations to the Board of Trustees in early 1990.

"A tremendous amount of time and energy has gone into looking at this policy," Ohman says. "We've tried to be as right as we could be. There's a very strong commitment by the Board of Trustees to support the Sullivan Principles." —S.E.

Terms of Endowment



more confident of the way their gifts are used, they are more likely to give.

Ted Weyerhaeuser, chair of the trustee investment committee, puts it this way: "Alumni want to make sure that the endowment's being properly managed.... The better the endowment is managed, the more alumni tend to contribute."

In recent years, in an effort to more effectively manage the \$60 million under their direct control, the trustees have begun diversifying Macalester's holdings. Colleges typically invest heavily in bond funds, which are very low-risk and pay a steady, predictable rate of interest, but they provide no hedge against inflation because they never appreciate. Recently the trustees have been examining other investments that are likely to yield a higher total return.

"I expect we will always be in bonds, to some extent," Aslanian says. "And we'll always be in the stock market." But, he adds, at least half of the endowment is now available to a wide variety of investment vehicles.

In December 1988, for example, the investment committee ventured into real estate for the first time, putting \$1.5 million into the Common Fund Real Estate Fund. At the trustees' March meeting,

the portfolio was further diversified by a \$500,000 investment in a private equity fund (technically a leveraged-buyout fund).

In years past, Macalester, like many other schools, essentially had its endowment managed by the trust departments of local banks. Now, however, the trustees are more actively looking at and selecting specific investment options.

"The main change," Aslanian explains, "has been to move away from doing business with local trust companies to highly specialized managers whom we select to fit into overall investment objectives set by the trustees.... We've moved to a much more aggressive position where we're trying to increase the total return on our endowment without substantial increases in risk."

On a small scale, this goal has already been achieved.

"Over the past two or three years," Weyerhaeuser observes, "we've had more intelligent, active management of funds... and we've already had good results."

Aslanian enthusiastically supports this more involved approach. "We've become more serious about the role of our investment objectives," he says. "Our objectives and spending policy are clearer now than they were 10 years ago." The trustees expect Macalester's more active invest-

Accounting for Macalester's Money

Of Macalester's \$200 million in investments, \$60 million is in traditional endowment funds: money under the direct control of the college's Board of Trustees. These funds are managed by the board's investment committee—five trustees plus two ex officio members. With college treasurer Paul Aslanian (the administrator who works most closely with the committee), the investment committee determines investment policy and selects specific investments.

The bulk of the \$60 million is in bond and equity (i.e. stock) funds, which are themselves aggregates of many other investments. Such funds, operated and managed by large financial organizations, yield a steady, reliable stream of income while entailing very little financial risk. About half is invested in First Asset Management, a subsidiary of the First Bank System; Chemical Bank; and American National Bank of Chicago. The other \$25 million is invested in the Common Fund, a fund created in the early 1970s exclusively for colleges and universities. (Since its creation, about 1,000 schools have invested a total of \$8.5 billion in the Common Fund.)

Macalester's income from this \$60 million in investments totaled about \$3.1 million for the fiscal year ending in May 1989. Anticipated income for 1989-90 is \$3.3 million.

Most of this income is restricted for such purposes as library acquisitions, scholarships, and faculty salaries, covering part of the college's \$32 million educational and operating expenses. A large portion of the \$60 million, however, is specifically devoted to supporting pro-



The endowment supports faculty chairs such as that held by Dorothy Dodge, James Wallace Professor of Political Science, with her research assistant, Rob Collins '90, who is majoring in political science, economics and philosophy. The hardbound books on the shelf behind Collins were given to Dodge by Hubert H. Humphrey.

fessorships, or chairs. Endowed faculty chairs are usually created by gifts to the endowment. Each gift is invested; most of the earnings are used to pay the faculty member's salary, and remaining earnings are reinvested to make sure that future years' salaries keep up with inflation.

The lion's share of Macalester's \$200 million holdings are "funds functioning as endowment"—money that, unlike the traditional endowment, is not under the college's control to invest as it pleases. Some \$135 million of this is managed by the DeWitt Wallace Fund for Macalester College. This fund consists of large hold-

ings of *Reader's Digest* stock, all given to the fund during the 1980s, whose value has soared in the past decade. In 1988-89, the DeWitt Wallace Fund generated \$3 million—\$1.25 million toward the college's operating expenses (primarily student financial aid), \$1.75 million for capital expenditures.

The remaining \$5 million in funds functioning as endowment, the Bloedel Trust, is managed by the Indiana-based Presbyterian Foundation. It generates about \$250,000 in annual income—which, like the income from the Wallace funds, mostly goes to aid students. —S.E.

ment strategies to continue—and to continue yielding a higher total return on the college's investments.

Aslanian adds a note of caution, however. "Our investment objectives, asset allocation, money managers, and spending policies must all work together." This means selecting the right people to manage the money, and choosing the right mix of assets for the college's portfolio. But it also means spending only

what Aslanian calls "a prudent portion" of Macalester's income.

What is spent, however, goes toward the college's *real* assets—its faculty, students, programs, facilities, and staff. Together, these elements determine the quality of Macalester's educational programs. In the end, wisely investing the college's endowment serves a greater purpose: ensuring Macalester's future as an institution to be proud of. ■

Becoming an Alien



JIM HANSEN

Oh, I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York.

—Sting, "Englishman in New York"

What does it take to set out for months, maybe years, in a country you've only read about? Every year, hundreds of Macalester's U.S. students take a deep breath and plunge into an unfamiliar culture for a semester or so of study—and for the college's international students, just coming to Minnesota represents a similar adventure. Here, three survivors of culture shock describe how they adjusted to their new lives.

by Rebecca Ganzel

Around 170 students settled into Macalester life this fall from places like Laos, Ethiopia, Greece, and India, and about 50 other countries. Some 225 U.S. students left (or are to leave) Macalester this year for a semester or two on one of the many international programs approved by the college. However diverse their adventures, these cultural pilgrims all confront the same hurdle: Changing cultures is a lot more complicated than trading in your T-shirt for a dashiki—or vice versa.

So once you've screwed your courage to where it sticks, how do you mentally prepare yourself for becoming an alien in a foreign culture? And when you get there, how long does it take before you stop feeling like an outsider?

We asked questions like these last spring of three Macalester students—a freshman from Tanzania, East Africa; a senior from Washington, D.C., who lived in southern France for a semester; and a Minnesotan junior who spent a summer in Mexico and plans to teach in Japan next year.

There are things you know academically, but you don't know them in your *soul*, in every fiber of your bone," says Patrick Hollister '90, who grew up in central Minnesota. Spending the summer of 1988 in Cuernavaca, Mexico (just south of Mexico City), "really opened my eyes."

It also whetted his appetite for more. However, instead of returning to Central America, he currently plans to visit a country whose culture, he admits, is radically different from Mexico's—Japan. For reasons he can't entirely explain, his three-month stay in Cuernavaca set him to taking *Japanese* on his return to Macalester.

"I like a challenge," he says, laughing, "and learning Japanese challenges a lot of your definitions of what a language is.... Prepositions, pronouns, plurals, past participles—all those good things exist in both English and Spanish. But Japanese has this hellish thing called a 'relational' that takes the *use* of a preposition, but—" He pauses. "Your logic pattern that you've grown up with, you're forced to break it down."

Logic patterns are important to Hollister, a mathematics major who looks like a football player but

Rebecca Ganzel, who is still (after 11 years) adjusting to the cultural differences between Minnesota and her native Ohio, is managing editor of this magazine.



Surrounded by artifacts from his Mexican stay, Pat Hollister '90 sits in the backyard of his parents' Roseville, Minn., home this fall. He is wearing a poncho and holding a *guiro* (a musical instrument); in the foreground are a sombrero and maracas.

actually pours his extracurricular energies into drama and music (he's a baritone in the student cappella group Traditions, which frequently performs at campus gatherings). For him, Japan and Mexico represent two ends of a continuum, with the United States somewhere in the middle. Learning about the two extremes, he says, helps him

JIM HANSEN

Becoming an Alien

Hollister, a Methodist, had to get used to Mexico's pervasive Catholicism. 'You won't sit and argue with somebody about the Reformation and Martin Luther and all that, because it seems totally irrelevant.'

better understand his own culture: "You don't really learn what it is to be an American until you go somewhere else," he says. "It teaches you to value your own heritage."

When he first came back from Mexico at the beginning of his junior year, Hollister planned to go on for a Ph.D. in mathematics. Now, after he graduates, he wants to go to Japan to teach English for a year, "then maybe get a master's in Japanese literature or East Asian studies." (His previous exposure to the Far East was what he calls a "whirlwind" trip in 1986 with his father, a professor of social work at the University of Minnesota, to Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, and China.)

He speaks with affection of the Mexican family he stayed with in Cuernavaca's La Lagunilla district, a working-class neighborhood with a history of political activism. As Hollister describes it, the area was settled 15 years ago—a period of intense overcrowding in Cuernavaca—by squatters who successfully petitioned the municipal government to buy the land from its absent owner. Among the original settlers were Hollister's hosts, the Bello family and their seven children, now ranging in age from 18 to 32.

Señor Bello owns a watchmaking business that two sons help him run, so the Bellos live "comfortably," Hollister says, with middle-class amenities that many of their close neighbors lack: a shower, a refrigerator, a washing machine. ("It will only take four shirts at once, but still—a *washing machine*.") Despite these luxuries, Hollister observed no

antagonism between his hosts and other La Lagunilla residents, "even the poorest of the poor who basically live in slapped-up tin houses."

Hollister admired the code of generosity he saw throughout his stay. Drifters who would be treated as "drunken bums" in a middle-class U.S. neighborhood were fed and considered friends by the Bellos, for instance. And, he found, it's unheard-of for Mexicans to split a restaurant check, or to quibble over loans between friends. "People just don't keep tabs on each other," he says.

Coming from a close-knit family of Methodists, he found the pervasive Catholicism of Mexico a little harder to get used to. Crucifixes and pictures of the Virgin Mary are everywhere, he says—in government buildings, on buses, in taxis, in restaurants.

"I basically became a Catholic for two months," Hollister says. "Most Mexicans can't afford the luxury of nitpicking about theology. You won't sit and argue with somebody about the Reformation and Martin Luther and all that, because it seems totally irrelevant."

He also had to adapt to a certain machismo, which sometimes meant listening to his new friends make derogatory comments about homosexuals. After a while, Hollister (who is not gay himself) learned not to argue back; they'd just ask him if he had AIDS.

"Mexico is a very homophobic country," he says. "Gay rights is not even an issue down there. It's such a theoretical, academic, intangible thing, when you can't even bring home enough food to feed your family. It's the same thing with animal rights, the bullfighting and all that. It's a *luxury* to worry about that kind of stuff...."

"Being in Latin America, seeing that kind of extreme poverty, has made me turn inward, to a very micro-level," Hollister continues. "I'm not going to be able to solve the greater problems, but maybe I can help the corner of the world where I am."

"A lot of Mac kids go down to Central America and come back real social-activist types, but that didn't happen to me. I was moved, but in more subtle ways. I don't claim to know what the solutions are, but I think I have a better grip on the problems."

I went through all the books I could lay my hands on about the U.S." to prepare for his studies at an American college, Rajeev Vibhakar '92 says. Living in Moshi, a Tanzanian town at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, he couldn't afford to be picky about his sources, which were mostly from his school library—encyclopedias, fiction, even "Archie" comic books.

"And I talked to as many American people as I could."

Still, Vibhakar says, he was unprepared for many aspects of his new life. "I read as much as I could, but it didn't tell me anything in terms of how the culture really works."

Vibhakar had been out of East Africa only to visit India with his parents when he was around eight years old (his grandparents had emigrated to Tan-

zania from the Gujarat region of India). Nonetheless, he says, he was familiar with Western culture before he came to Macalester.

"My dad has always wanted me to be a doctor, or something like that, and he figured I would need to go abroad to get that education," he says. (Indeed, Vibhakar is majoring in biology at Macalester and plans to go to a U.S. medical school.) "So since grade one, I went to a Western school—I've been speaking English since I was three or so."

"I have, like, three cultures," Vibhakar explains, almost apologetically. "Because I'm Hindu, I have my Indian culture and my language there"—Gujarati, which his family speaks at home. "And then, because I live in Africa, my *real* culture is African; to myself and my brother, Tanzania is our country, and we speak Swahili. But I've gone to a Western school all my life, so a lot of my thoughts about the world have been shaped by Western concepts and ideas."

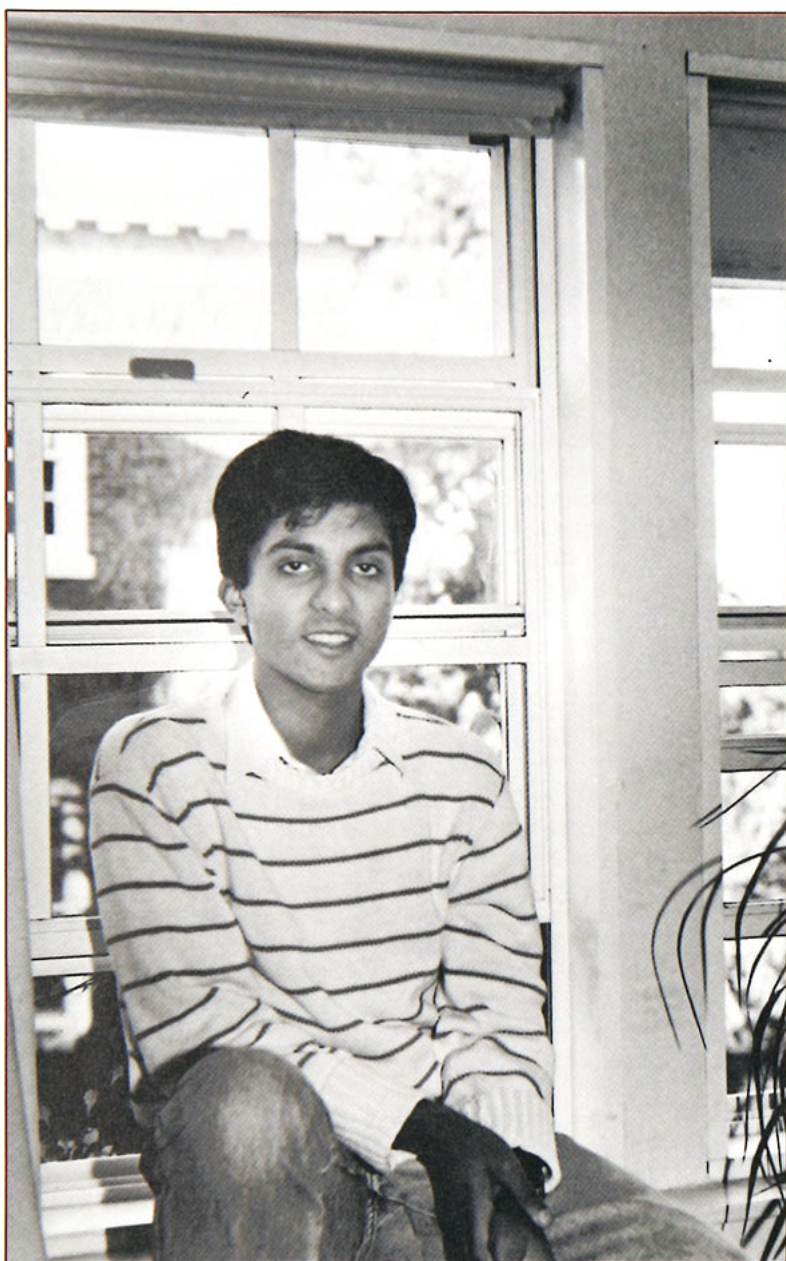
Even so, meeting the Western world on its own territory, as Vibhakar did when he stepped off a plane in Chicago in August 1988, was a bit of a shock.

"I landed at O'Hare, and everything felt like, Oh, my God, where am I?" he says. "I was totally lost immediately. Ten airplanes had landed at the same time, there were lines everywhere, and these lights were flashing at me saying, Go here, Go here."

Even a pleasant encounter with a couple who turned out to be themselves Macalester alumni ("The first people I talked to in the U.S. were from Macalester, and I was so totally lost I never even thought to ask their names!"), and being met by his uncle, a Chicago dentist, didn't mitigate Vibhakar's uneasiness with this new country.

"I spent a week and a half in Chicago [with his uncle] and absolutely hated it," he says; the city was too much of a contrast with his rural Tanzanian hometown. Then, arriving on the Macalester campus, he found that there'd been a mix-up; international-student orientation didn't start for two more days. He got a temporary room in Turck Hall, but no key. The first evening, locked out of the residence hall for three hours (he didn't know there was an outside telephone for emergencies), Vibhakar remembers sitting on the Turck steps thinking, "Why did I come here? I want to go back home!"

Once orientation began, however, things began looking up. Vibhakar was among about 50 international freshmen last year—including another Tanzanian—and he says they all thoroughly enjoyed the parties and outings the International Center



JIM HANSEN

Tanzanian student Rajeev Vibhakar '92 in his room in Dayton Hall, where he is an R.A. this year.

Dealing with the 'Shock' of a New Life

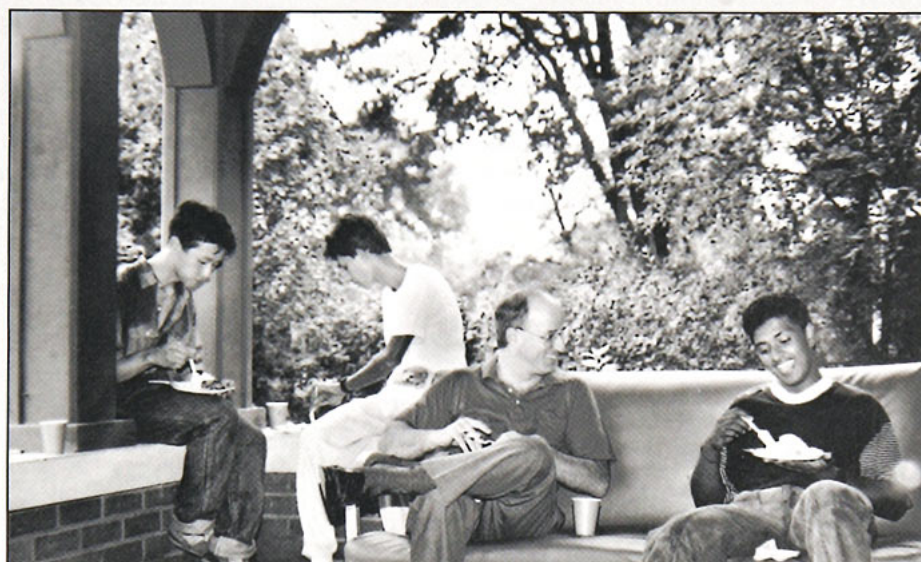
In addition to coordinating the college study-abroad program, Macalester's International Center (known on campus as "the IC") offers many programs to help students deal with culture shock—some designed for U.S. students returning from overseas, others for international students coming to the United States.

- In the "Mentor" program, every new international student is matched with an upperclass student for educational and social activities, both one-on-one and in groups. Eight mentors—all work-study students with considerable international exposure—each have 10–12 "mentees" with whom they spend perhaps 50 hours during the new students' first week on campus (they pick them up at the airport, for instance), and at least a couple of hours per week throughout the year: having dinner, helping with registration, or just chatting.

Lynne Ackerman, the IC's program coordinator, says that group mentor activities this fall have included a workshop on computer word-processing, an excursion to the Valleyfair amusement park, and a "winter costume party" that gave a humorous slant to buying clothes for a Minnesota winter.

- "Host families"—Americans living in the Twin Cities, some of them Macalester alumni and faculty or staff members—are also matched up with international students who request them, Ackerman says. About 60 students participated in this program last year. Students visit these families about once a month for low-key family activities: a birthday party or holiday dinner, a walk around the lakes, an evening at the theater.

Close friendships are sometimes formed between students and their host families. Tanzanian student Rajeev Vibhakar ended up living with his hosts, Judy and Arthur Payne, over the past summer—and taking their daughter to her high-school prom, a novel American ritual for him. "It's great," he says of the host-family program. "It gives you this *home* feeling."



JIM HANSEN

During a barbecue to celebrate their first evening at Macalester (Aug. 28), some of this year's 52 new international students relax on the porch of the International Center on Summit Avenue. Dean of admissions William Shain is second from right.

- Two counselors in Macalester's counseling office (part of the college health service) are specially trained in cross-cultural issues. Counselor Janet Schank estimates that the office works with about 15–20 international students throughout the academic year, helping them to master such challenges as adjusting to American-style friendships (more casual than those in some other cultures), overcoming the loneliness brought on by language barriers, dealing with political crises or family problems back home, and getting used to the U.S. education system (the idea that it's not disrespectful to challenge a professor in a class discussion, for instance).
 - IC-sponsored workshops and seminars, about one a week, are held throughout the year in the college chapel, the International Center's comfortable parlor, or residence halls. "International Forums" address current world events from international students' perspectives (last year, for instance, there was a forum on Corazon Aquino's government, jointly led by a Filipino student and the Minneapolis *Star Tribune's* foreign correspondent).
- The "Know Before You Go" series is directed at U.S. students studying

abroad. Study-abroad advisor Terry Johnson says the series covers such topics as how to budget travel expenses and how women and gays can adjust to life in "macho" cultures. In fact, the article that accompanies this sidebar was inspired by a college convocation on culture shock last fall—a panel discussion in which Vibhakar, Pat Hollister, and Cara Woodson all participated.

"We [at Macalester] have such a large number of foreign students and students going abroad that it's easy for us to get a lot of students together for these kinds of discussions," Johnson says. Colleges and universities with fewer international resources will soon have access to a videotape, "Bridges to Friendship," being produced by the IC staff and distributed nationally through the Washington, D.C.-based National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. On the video, seven Macalester students—U.S. and international—talk about barriers in cross-cultural relationships and strategies for solutions. Many colleges have expressed an interest in using the tape to help orient students going abroad, Johnson says: "It's a new device for orientation—they're excited about it." —R.L.G.

Becoming an Alien

That first evening at Macalester, Vibhakar remembers sitting on the Turck steps thinking, "Why did I come here? I want to go back home!"

organized that first week and throughout the year.

"We were all discovering things and making friends; it was exciting," he says. In addition, the resident assistant assigned to his Bigelow Hall floor turned out to be Pat Hollister, himself newly arrived from his summer in Mexico, and the two became good friends.

Vibhakar, because his Indian features don't match the image Americans have of a native African, says people here have a hard time believing he's as "real" a citizen of his country as an American three generations removed from Europe.

"They'd say, 'Oh, but you're from India.' And I'd say, 'No, I'm from Tanzania.' 'But you're really from India, aren't you?' They wouldn't accept it. It's really hard to explain that although I'm not black, I consider myself Tanzanian."

This fall, Rajeev Vibhakar can point to another non-black Tanzanian on campus—his brother Hasit, a first-year student. When we talked to Rajeev this summer, he was looking forward to Hasit's late-August arrival. Had he given his younger brother any words of advice?

"I've written everything I can think of—bring this, be prepared to do this." He pauses. "But I still think you can never be prepared for [U.S. life]; you just have to learn as you go through it."

The packed-full life of Cara Woodson '89, including eight years of studying French, was all she needed to feel at home—eventually—during her 1987 semester in Toulon, France. At Woodrow Wilson, her Washington, D.C., high school, Woodson was involved in rugby, crew, and theater, in addition to taking three languages and playing harp in the school orchestra. At Macalester, she continued to add to her varied

interests with a double-major in international studies and French, and a political-science minor. Still, she now believes, France gave her a self-confidence she'd lacked before.

"I hadn't been very aggressive before I left, or very confident," Woodson says. "Being in France really helped me to gain more independence."

Woodson found her first month on an orientation program in Paris much harder than the subsequent semester in southern France—even though the real trauma of culture shock struck *after* she returned to the United States.

"Paris is the toughest place to be in France," she says. "Parisians are very picky about their language, and they will not speak to you unless you are speaking Parisian French, which is very correct and very rapid." Even with eight years of French-language study under her belt, Woodson found this frustrating. "I was beginning to understand pretty well by the time I left [Paris], but my speaking wasn't good at all because I hadn't practiced it. I was scared to death to use the telephone—things like that."

Five months in Toulon, and then another week in Paris at the end of her stay, changed all that. Herself the product of at least two American cultures—Woodson's mother, a professor, is white and from Boston, her father, an architect, black and from Texas—Woodson now says, "I definitely felt a lot more at home abroad than I did here."

Like Hollister and Vibhakar, Woodson says being in a foreign country meant she had to learn how to respond—or not to respond—to comments about her *own* culture. Watching an old Harry Belafonte movie on television in Toulon, Woodson remembers, her French mother turned to her and asked, "Do American blacks still do that—just go out on street corners and start singing folk songs?"

"No—not in my experience, anyway," Woodson said.

"Oh, that's awful. They're losing their *culture!*" was her host mother's response.

"It was really beyond me," Woodson says now. "They just didn't *get* it. Their images of the United States are directly from those old movies and old TV shows, and I feel we've progressed past some of those stereotypes." It was all the more problematic for her to explain the nuances of present-day African-American life because, with a black father and a white mother, Woodson doesn't feel that much a part of American black culture: "I don't consider myself black. I tried to explain that to my French mother, but it didn't work."

Woodson found that her copper-colored skin was an issue in southern France, where some people resent the recent influx of African immigrants from

Becoming an Alien



Cara Woodson '89 in her Saint Paul apartment. Behind her is an Impressionist poster from a French museum.

such former French colonies as Algeria.

"I don't want to emphasize this too much—it wasn't a major part of my stay—but the south of France is fairly racist," she says. "It doesn't necessarily affect Americans, if they know you're American. But because of my skin color, I was mistaken for an Arab several times. Usually it was by other Arabs, and just my not knowing the language cleared it up very quickly. I was pretty lucky; I was never stopped by the police."

How did Woodson deal with this racism? "I finally decided that I was there to learn," she says, "and that one person wasn't going to change the attitudes of all these people. I tried to show by example that some things were different from what they thought, but I wasn't going to sit down and debate with them."

Woodson's French family expected her to explain the nuances of present-day African-American life, but 'I don't consider myself black. I tried to explain that to my French mother, but it didn't work.'

In the end, "I was really not ready to leave France," she says. "After six or seven months, you're just starting to adapt to the culture." Jet lag and lack of sleep complicated Woodson's re-acclimation to U.S. life even further: When she flew home to Washington in June for a summer job at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, her flight from Europe was delayed; she arrived at 1 a.m. and went to work at 6.

"I was speaking French right and left—I just couldn't remember that everyone around me spoke English," Woodson says. "It was very, very hard the first week. I did *not* want to be home. I don't know how many times I said that before my mother finally said, 'Cara, if you say that one more time I'm just going to cry!'"

Early this fall, the newly graduated Woodson was looking for a job in government (an internship with the Minnesota Senate ended in September) and considering graduate school next year. Her ultimate dream, though, is to return to France: "I would love to go back to Paris to live. I think I will—in the next five years." ■

JIM HANSEN

'Leading Edge' series highlights fall activities

Sounds of Blackness, a Twin Cities music group founded and directed by Gary Hines '74, will present a "Music for Martin" concert for all Twin Cities alumni as well as parents and students on Jan. 17 at the Ordway Music Theatre in Saint Paul. The event is the second in the 1989-90 "Leading Edge" series, sponsored by the Alumni Association and designed to highlight the contributions of alumni in government, business, and the arts in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Twin Cities-area alumni should watch for an invitation.

Saint Paul mayor George Latimer was slated to headline the first event in the "Leading Edge" series Oct. 25, with geography professor David Lanegran '63 as host. Lanegran has extensively analyzed the 14-year Latimer administration, which has attracted national recognition (*Newsweek* recently featured Saint Paul as "having it all"). Alumni critics and supporters voiced their opinions on such issues as historic preservation, budget management, and civil rights. Scheduled to take part: Paula McKibbin Mannillo '66, consultant on women's economic development; Scott A. Johnson '83, managing director of the World Trade Center; Mihailo Temali '76, director of North End Area Revitalization; Janet Rajala Nelson '72, vice president of the St. Paul Companies; Stephen D. Smith '82, reporter for Minnesota Public Radio; Marilyn Vigil, executive director of Neighborhood House; Edward L. Johnson '73, director of the Fort Road Federation; Claudia K. Swanson '69, member of the Saint Paul School Board; and Robert E. Tracy '82, staff member with the St. Paul Foundation.

At least two additional Twin Cities events will be held as part of the "Leading Edge" series. These events are being planned by a convening group that consists of Janet P. Bisbee '80, Ellery W. July '77, Roderick I. Mackenzie '69, Karen M. Nelson '77, Douglas D. Strandness '74, Julie L. Stroud '81, and Jordana Tatar '82, in consultation with David A. Lanegran '63.

"Recent Grads" (alumni from the past five classes) continue to gather periodically in the Twin Cities, convened by

Joanna R. Diebel '87, Eric Hesse '87, Sherry L. Johnson '84, Durjoy Mazumdar '86, Bruce Smith '86, and Charles S. Smith '85.

English professor Roger K. Blakely '43 was guest speaker at a Boston event in late September.

Several 1989 World Press Institute fellows spoke about their perceptions of the U.S. at an event organized by the New York club in early October. The fellows—journalists from around the world—were nearing the end of the five-month work-and-travel program organized by WPI, which is headquartered at Macalester.

As this issue went to press, convening groups were planning fall alumni events for Denver, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Seattle, and winter and spring events for Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Tucson, and Washington, D.C.



With the Hudson River as backdrop, New York alumni gather June 18 at the Manhattan home of Tonia Papke '73.

The M Club board of directors is planning a series of activities and is looking for volunteers to help with fund-raising activities.

Eleven committees are being formed to plan individual class activities for Reunion Weekend, June 8-10, 1990. If you are a member of a class ending with "5" or "0" and would like to help plan your special reunion activities, contact the alumni office, 612/696-6295.

Some 200 alumni leaders—representing the Alumni Admissions network, Annual Fund, Reunion Weekend class planning and gift committees, and Alumni Association board of directors—convened on campus for Leadership Weekend Sept. 15-17. The assembled

volunteer leaders participated in a series of information and planning meetings, took part in Homecoming festivities, and were saluted at a leadership dinner.

A committee cornucopia

The Alumni Association board of directors coordinates a variety of alumni-service efforts designed to aid the college, its students, and other alumni. The board's activities are carried out through a number of committees:

Admissions works closely with admissions-office staff to support the efforts of Macalester's 600 alumni admissions volunteers, and help recruit volunteers. Wendy Butler-Boyesen '72 and Elizabeth MacKnight Haan '43 (*co-chairs*), Bruce D. Christie '62, Janet H. Engeswick '53, and Philip C. Ahn '57.

Careers works with the college's Career Development Center to support a growing alumni career network and activities for new graduates, retirees, and alumni. Roland R. DeLapp '43 and Susan E. Boinis '80 (*co-chairs*), Matthew E. Flora '74, Ann Leitze '53, Ford J. Nicholson '78, and Ann M. Samuelson '85.

Clubs supports the growth of alumni clubs in the Twin Cities and across the country. Robert E. Tracy '82 (*chair*), Curtis E. Burckhardt '63, H. Regina Cullen '73, Julie L. Stroud '81, Charlotte Bailey Sindt '34, Margaret Wallin Marvin '39, and Virginia E. Lanegran '53.

Development helps promote alumni participation in the Annual Fund and involves the board as needed in fund-raising events. Michael E. Sneed '81 (*chair*), Paul C. Light '75, Anne Harbour '64, Janet Rajala Nelson '72, and Doyle E. Larson '52.

Nominations nominates candidates for the association board, officer positions, and alumni trustee positions; it also presents Distinguished Citizen Citation candidates to the board. Joni Kelly Bennett '78 (*chair*), Judy L. Vicars '68, Stanley M. Johnson '50, Jane Else Smith '67, Deborah R. Walker '73, Albert Ranum '50, and Kurt Winkelmann '78 (non-voting).

Serving on the **executive committee** are president Julie Stroud, president-elect Janet Nelson, secretary Kurt Winkelmann, treasurer Ford Nicholson, and directors Stanley Johnson and Michael Sneed.



Reunion 1989: New Ideas, Warm Memories

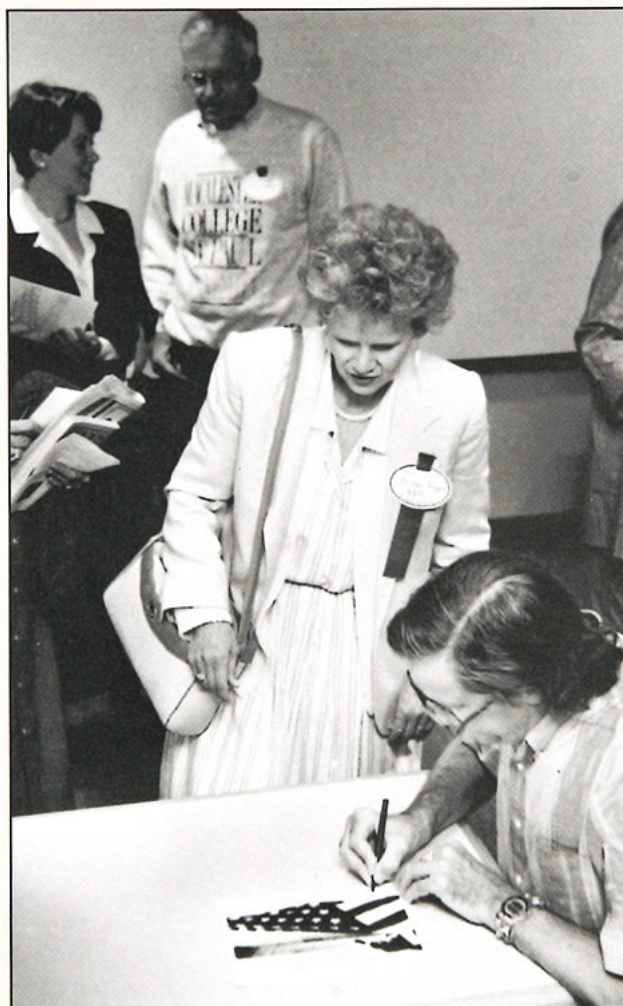
More than 600 alumni and their families converged on campus in June for three days of warm memories, old friends, new ideas, and fun.

Among the highlights: photojournalist Flip Schulke '53 testifying that his Macalester education had taught him not only how to take pictures but how to recognize what is *worth* photographing; alumni and faculty writers describing how they make time in their everyday lives to exercise their creative voices; alumni children creating and performing a moving and funny theatrical work about coping with problems that confront youngsters today; "Dewey Decimal and the Librarians" rockin' at the Class of '64 party.

Other memorable moments: announcement of a record-setting \$1.13 million gift from the Class of '39; words of wisdom and inspiration from the alumni cited as Distinguished Citizens (see August 1989 *Macalester Today*); and words of remembrance for the late Charles J. Turck, Macalester president from 1939 to 1958.



This page, top right: At the Friday luncheon at President Gavin's house, members of the class of '29 shared impromptu stories of their undergraduate years at Macalester. Left to right, Cornelia Rand Smith '29, Elna Forsell Avery '28 and her guest, Fern Dane. Above, four of this year's Distinguished Citizens at Saturday's panel discussion, "How Macalester Shaped My Values": Charles Baxter '69, Margaret Wallin Marvin '39, Kathleen Osborne Vellenga '59, and Michael Davis '69. Right, photographer Flip Schulke '53 signs prints of his 1960s photographs of Martin Luther King, Jr., following his Friday slide presentation in the library.





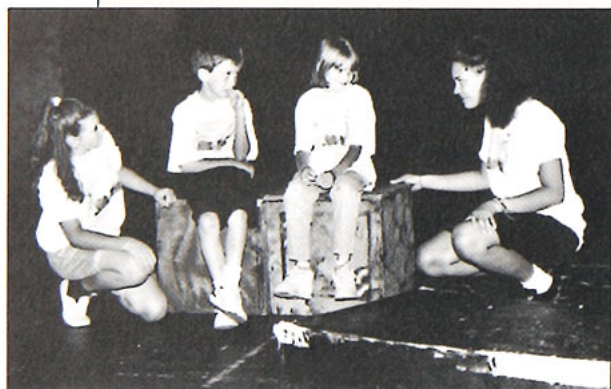
Below, members of the class of '69 gather Saturday for an al fresco dinner on the library plaza.



Following the Sunday chapel service recognizing the life and work of late president Charles Turck, Evelyn Bushnell and John Bushnell '39 examine the plaque newly placed in Turck's honor outside Weyerhaeuser Chapel.



Left, alumni children perform in the Black Box Saturday afternoon, coached by theater artist Jan Mandell. Above, Dana Jones, Francine Kola-Bankole and Kim Walton from the class of '79 chat at Saturday's all-class picnic on the Old Main lawn.





ALUMNI PROFILE



BARBARA COAN HOUGHTON

Cynthia Wilner '87 in a peaceful Beijing this spring—before student demonstrations were crushed by the Chinese government.

A lesson in patriotism

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony will never be the same for Cynthia Wilner '87, who tuned in to Radio Beijing as usual on Sunday morning, June 4, to hear the latest reports on the student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. As soon as she heard music instead of news, she knew that something had gone very wrong. "They played it *twice!*" she says with quiet horror.

Wilner, a native of Lenexa, Kansas, had gone to China in January 1989 to study Chinese at Beijing Languages Institute, planning to teach English in China starting in the fall. Throughout April and May, she shared in the exhilaration that permeated Beijing and other Chinese cities as students and workers peacefully demonstrated for government reform.

Along with many others in China, she listened to Radio Beijing's news reports every morning; living in Beijing, she saw the demonstrations first-hand as well. In a letter to a friend on April 22, she wrote, "I just had one of the most incred-

ible experiences of my life": seeing students at the funeral of deposed Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang "[march] around Tiananmen Square demanding democracy in China." And "jubilant" was the way she described the city's atmosphere on May 17, when people from all walks of life came to the square to support the hunger strikers. "The crowds were enormous," Wilner remembers.

A brief encounter with student leaders at Beijing University's demonstration headquarters also impressed her. "They've been good role models for me," she said in a telephone interview from her parents' Kansas home, admiring the sacrifices they made. "I'm more patriotic now."

All that jubilation and exhilaration came to an abrupt end with the Chinese government's military attack on student demonstrators that Sunday morning—an attack now symbolized for Wilner by

Beethoven's Fifth. Some estimates of the number of deaths in Tiananmen Square that day run as high as 10,000, and the shock Wilner felt in Beijing Language Institute, about five miles from the square, was echoed throughout China and the world.

On June 6, still in a daze, Wilner and her American schoolmates were taken by U.S. Embassy vehicles to a hotel near the embassy compound. This was not a comforting move, as it turned out; shooting broke out in a nearby building. Wilner decided it was time to go home.

"A bunch of us organized to go to the Lido [Hotel] by taxi," she says. From there it was a short trip to the airport, and, four days after the Tiananmen Square massacre, they were on the first specially chartered flight out of China.

"I love China," Wilner says. "I have some dear friends there. I didn't get to say goodbye to them," she adds on the verge of tears.

This was Wilner's second visit to Beijing. In 1986-87, she travelled there over Interim to visit a former roommate who lives there; soon after she returned to Macalester, she began planning to go back to teach this year.

Even three years ago, Wilner observed some of the inequities in Chinese life that spurred the students' 1989 demonstrations. One of her Chinese friends, a graduate student, received 90 yuan a month—of which 60 yuan went for food. (At this writing, one yuan was worth about 28 U.S. cents.) A foreigner teaching English, on the other hand, might be paid as much as 600 yuan per month. And students' prospects appeared no better than their stipends. "It's depressing," Wilner says, "to see how many Chinese students want to go to the West to study. Then they don't want to go back home because they have no choices there."

For her part, now that her dream to teach in China has been at least postponed, Wilner plans to stay in Kansas until her December marriage to one John Cramsie. Afterwards, she hopes to move to Saint Paul to teach English as a second language. —Barbara Coan Houghton

ALUMNI & FACULTY BOOKS

by Mary Lou Burket

Protecting the privacy of the 'undeserving'

AIDS: Testing and Privacy
by Martin Gunderson, David J. Mayo,
and Frank S. Rhame
Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press,
1989. 241 pp., \$18 cloth.

How can society check the sexually transmitted disease AIDS? Require that marriage-license applicants be tested for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus, which causes the disease)? Segregate stricken prisoners from other prisoners? Inform the sexual partners of those infected?

When forming policies for treating AIDS patients and preventing the spread of the virus, matters that seem straightforward often turn out to be otherwise. Not everyone agrees, for example, that users of intravenous drugs, a high-risk group, deserve to enjoy the same civil rights as everyone else. It is difficult, then, to protect those rights.

AIDS: Testing and Privacy, part of a series of academic studies that addresses technological change and its ethical implications, considers how privacy is undermined by efforts to control the AIDS epidemic through testing. To what degree, ask the authors (one of whom, Martin Gunderson, is associate professor of philosophy at Macalester), are privacy claims justified? To answer that question, they weigh competing risks to life and liberty—risks that, they assert, are poorly understood.

The first part of the book explains the nature of the disease and various tests used to detect it; factors to consider when deciding whether to test; and laws that protect and limit privacy. These are closely reasoned chapters, written in clear, concise prose. Another chapter in this section argues carefully for the importance, if not the right, of privacy in a free society.

The second part of the book presents other related issues, including the value of education in changing unsafe behavior and the purposes of such groups as insurance providers, employers, and the military—all of whom claim an interest in excluding infected individuals. Here, as elsewhere, the authors' dispassion is sometimes surprising—as when they

question whether the testing of blood donors is an optimal use of funds.

A disease that is so costly to treat and so deadly cries out for precise knowledge and judgment. To their great credit, Gunderson, Mayo, and Rhame provide a high level of insight into a sizable body of data. They also seem undaunted by dilemmas as they make their recommendations. Hospitals, for example, are urged to "go through the horns" of making AIDS tests a condition of care and refusing treatment to those who test positive—and simultaneously advised to avoid testing altogether, taking precautions against infections from the bodily fluids of all patients.

Often it's the *uses* of AIDS tests that go undeclared when institutions decide whether to test, a point the authors make repeatedly. Popular support for mandatory testing, they say, "reflects a failure on the part of the general public to think carefully about how exactly mass testing would enhance prevention and what the implications of testing would be for privacy."

Diane Worfolk Allison '70: *In Window Eight, the Moon Is Late*. Little, Brown, 1988. 32 pp., \$12.95 cloth.

A picturebook depicting the final hours of the first day of summer, this introduces a delighted child who walks through the rooms of her house delivering laundry. Each room she visits has a window framing an image of flowers, trees, and deepening skies.

Harry B. Lincoln '46: *The Italian Madrigal and Related Repertories: Indexes to Printed Collections, 1500–1600*. Yale University Press, 1988. 1,139 pp., \$95 cloth.

Begun in 1965, this comprehensive music index is meant to "offer a research tool comparable to the large concordances and indexes to first lines enjoyed by [scholars] in literary fields." It indexes some 38,000 melodic incipits. The author is affiliated with the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Anna S. Meigs: *Food, Sex, and Pollution: A New Guinea Religion*. Rutgers University Press, 1988. 196 pp., \$12 paper.

After Anna Meigs, associate professor of anthropology at Macalester, travelled to the eastern highlands of New Guinea to study divorce, she discovered that what her informants *really* wanted to discuss were rules about food. Following 1½ years of fieldwork in two Hua villages, she completed her dissertation; this ethnography, published in hardcover in 1984 (\$22.50), is a revised, expanded version.

Dorothea Marvin Nyberg '44: *Life Support: Christian Compassion and the Terminally Ill*. Here's Life Publishers, 1988. 141 pp., \$7.95 paper.

When her mother, having suffered a series of strokes, lapsed into a coma, Nyberg faced a choice between prolonging her mother's life through "heroic measures" and allowing her to die. Drawing from interviews with families, doctors, and clerics as well as from written sources, she traces the decisions that families make when caring for the terminally ill. A list of related support organizations is included.

David White: *The Bhagavad Gītā: A New Translation with Commentary*. Peter Lang Publishers, 1988. 246 pp., \$42.50 cloth.

This "teaching" translation of the Gītā, one of many ancient Hindu scriptures, took White more than 20 years to complete. White, professor of philosophy emeritus at Macalester, seeks to make the basic themes of the poem accessible to Western readers.

Mary Lou Burket '78 is a free-lance writer who lives in Minneapolis; her book reviews regularly appear in these pages and in such national publications as The New York Times Book Review and The Christian Science Monitor. If you have just published a book, please let us know—and ask your publisher to send a review copy to: Managing Editor, Macalester Today, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105.



The marriage that wasn't

I always look forward to *Macalester Today*, particularly the Class Notes. But this time, when the August issue was published, I was mortified! A note written by Jeff Bender (also class of '84) mentions several people he sees in New York. Imagine my surprise when I got to my name, and found out I had gotten married! I immediately called Jeff and accused him of deliberately humiliating me. He denied it so well that I knew he

couldn't have done it. So I called [Class Notes editor] Kevin Brooks and explained that I never married Jeff Wagenbach '85 and never planned to, but that we had lived together both in Saint Paul and in New York until 1987. Although he doesn't live with me anymore, some mail from Macalester is still delivered to him at my address. In fact, we always got only one copy of *Macalester Today* delivered to the both of us.

Anyway, to make a very long letter short, I expect that somehow our names merged inadvertently in someone's com-

puter somewhere. Kevin Brooks did check my files and found that my name is as it should be. Please note that I never married Jeff Wagenbach, and I am still Elizabeth Cranin and still very single.

Elizabeth Cranin '84
New York, N.Y.

Deborah Kerkvliet, the development-office secretary who helps maintain the alumni database, assures us that the error has been corrected.
—Editors

MEMORIAL

Mary Gwen Owen

Mary Gwen Owen '23, Macalester's professor emerita of speech and drama and an indefatigable arts organizer, died June 19 in River Falls, Wis.

She had majored in political science at Macalester, a subject in which she received a master's from the University of Minnesota in 1936, and taught high-school history before joining Macalester's faculty in 1928. (She became chair of the speech and drama department 17 years later.)

With a flair for dramatic interpretation and a firm belief in her students' abilities, she established what became a nationally known dramatic-reading group, the Drama Choros, in 1931. Consisting of 80 students accompanied by Macalester's bagpipe band, the Choros regularly gave multimedia presentations throughout the United States until Owen's retirement in 1968.

Owen also headed the planning for building the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, completed in 1963. After retiring from Macalester, Owen gave many poetry readings, taught drama at the Red Wing State Training School, helped found a historical society, directed summer-theater productions, and worked tirelessly on behalf of historic preservation and political causes.

She was married to the late Edward Swanson, and they lived for many years on their farm, Bluff Coulee, on the banks of the Mississippi River in Hager City,



Wis. Survivors include a daughter, **Mary G. Swanson MacLeod '62**, son-in-law **Robert P. MacLeod '62**, and two grandsons, including **Edward O. MacLeod '84**.

—N.A.P./R.L.G.

Stories—as dramatic and unconventional as their inspiration—seemed to spring up around Mary Gwen Owen throughout her long career at Macalester. We'd like to collect some of the best for a future article on this legendary professor. If you have a "Mary Gwen" tale to tell, please send it (a typed, double-spaced manuscript is preferred, and be sure to include your name and address) to Nancy Peterson, *Macalester Today* Editor, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899.

Recycle this magazine!

I enjoy reading *Macalester Today*, but I am sorry that so many people feel it is worth their time to debate what size it should be! A more important improvement would be if you printed it on a non-glossy paper so it can be recycled. Printing it on recycled paper would mean even more to the environment.

Amy Bornstein Fuqua '84
Saint Paul

Our Saint Paul recycling company tells us that all of Macalester Today, with the exception of the cover, is 100 percent recyclable. Printing the magazine on recycled paper is possible, but it would increase our printing costs considerably and would not allow photos to be reproduced well. Other readers?
—Editors

Corrections

Due to an editing error in the August feature on writer Carlos Fuentes (a Wallace Distinguished Visitor at Macalester last spring), a character in Fuentes' novel *The Old Gringo* is described as a "Mexican woman remembering her time with an aging American journalist." In fact, the woman is American—or, to be as precise as possible, *North American*.

Also in the August issue, the profile of operatic stage manager Karen Miller fails to identify her as a member of the class of 1979; and the caption for a photograph on page 3 (of 10 members of the class of '39) mistakenly identifies Roberta Otis Taylor as Geneva Macomber Hobart. We regret the omission and the error.

—Editors

Making Summer Pay

For the roughly 70 percent of Macalester students on financial aid, summer days aren't carefree. Most of them must use that time to earn a *minimum* of \$1,050 (more for upperclassmen) as their contribution toward college expenses. Summer jobs offered by Macalester alumni offer an ideal solution. Last summer, with the help of Macalester's Career Development Center, **Tatyana Churin '92** (whose family, now living in Illinois, emigrated from Moscow when she was 17) met up with librarian Carol Lee Johnson '51 for a paid summer internship at the South Saint Paul public library.

No matter where you live, if you or your employer have a summer job available and you'd like to explore possible connections with a current Macalester student, please call or write Career Development Center director Nancy Tellett-Royce (1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899; 612/696-6384). The rewards are great—for both of you.



GREG HELGESON

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